

A Photographic History of the Smith Family

Volume 1: Joseph John Smith & Anna Marie Kutarnia

This series of photograph “albums” cover more than a century of history of the lives of Joseph John Smith and Anna Marie Kutarnia and their descendants.

<u>Album</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Years</u>
1	The road to Trenton	1886 – 1927
2	Pre-war years in Trenton	1927 – 1939
3	Trenton Central High School Yearbook	1931 – 1942
4	Weddings	1937 – 1948
5	Serving the country	1941 – 1945
6	Trenton	1940 – 1959
7	Christmas Greetings	1941 – 1960
8	Trenton and beyond	1960 – 1979
9	The next generation	1980 – 1999
10	Smith Cousins Reunion	July 1987
11	Smith Cousins Reunion	July 1995
12	Family	2000 – 2019

A Photographic History of the **Smith Family**

Album N° 5: Uncle Sam wants You!

The photographs in this volume are part of the collection amassed by Dr. Brian A. Smith over several decades beginning in 1985. The collections represented in this album include those of:

Valentine “Billy” Smith
John & Mary Jane Smith
Kathyb and Bruno Spych
Margaret and Pete Gurland

I am forever indebted to these people who have shared their photographs and/or by those who have possession of them and shared them with me.

By Dr. Brian A. Smith

Michael, Margaret, John, and Billy were members of the Armed Forces during World War II. Margaret was a Marine! Not a "women's corp" but an actual *Marine*. A friend noticed this picture I had of her and my Dad and jumped up, wanting to know all about her because, as a Marine himself, it was somewhat surprising to see a woman in full Marine dress from WW II.

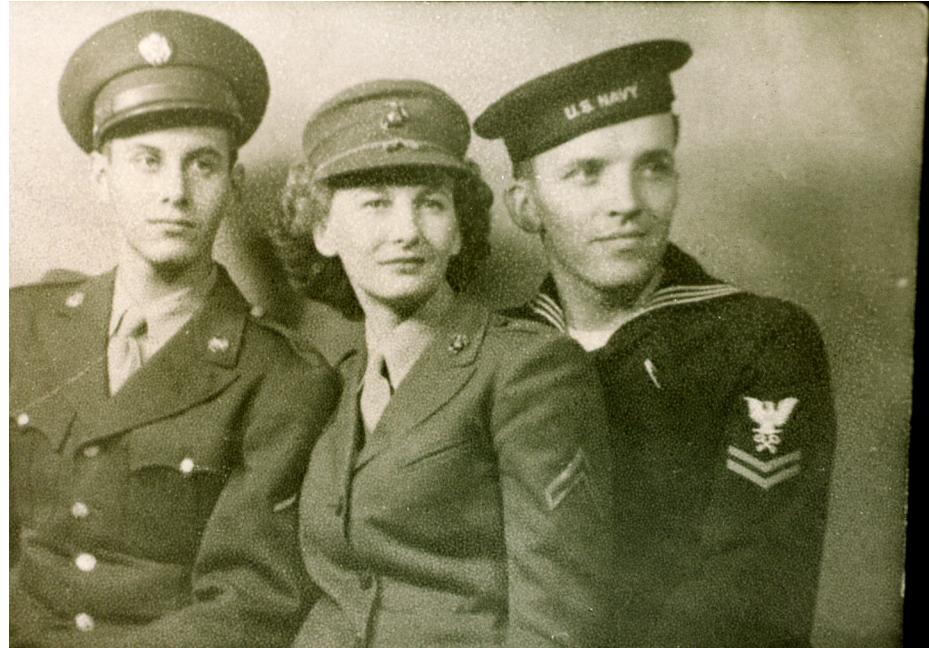


She was first stationed near Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia, then at the Second Battalion Headquarters in Henderson Hall, Arlington, Virginia and later in Bethesda, Maryland. She was promoted to Sergeant before being discharged the day after the first atomic bomb was dropped on 7 August 1945.

She had married Peter Gurlavich in August 1941 and he served in the U.S. Navy.

Henderson Hall





Plus one equals



I don't have any photographs of Uncle Mike in uniform but he was in Tennessee where he served in the US Army Air Force, the same branch as Uncle Johnny. His wife, Aunt Mary, worked for the Selective Service and received the Meritorious Service Award from President Jimmy Carter in 1974.



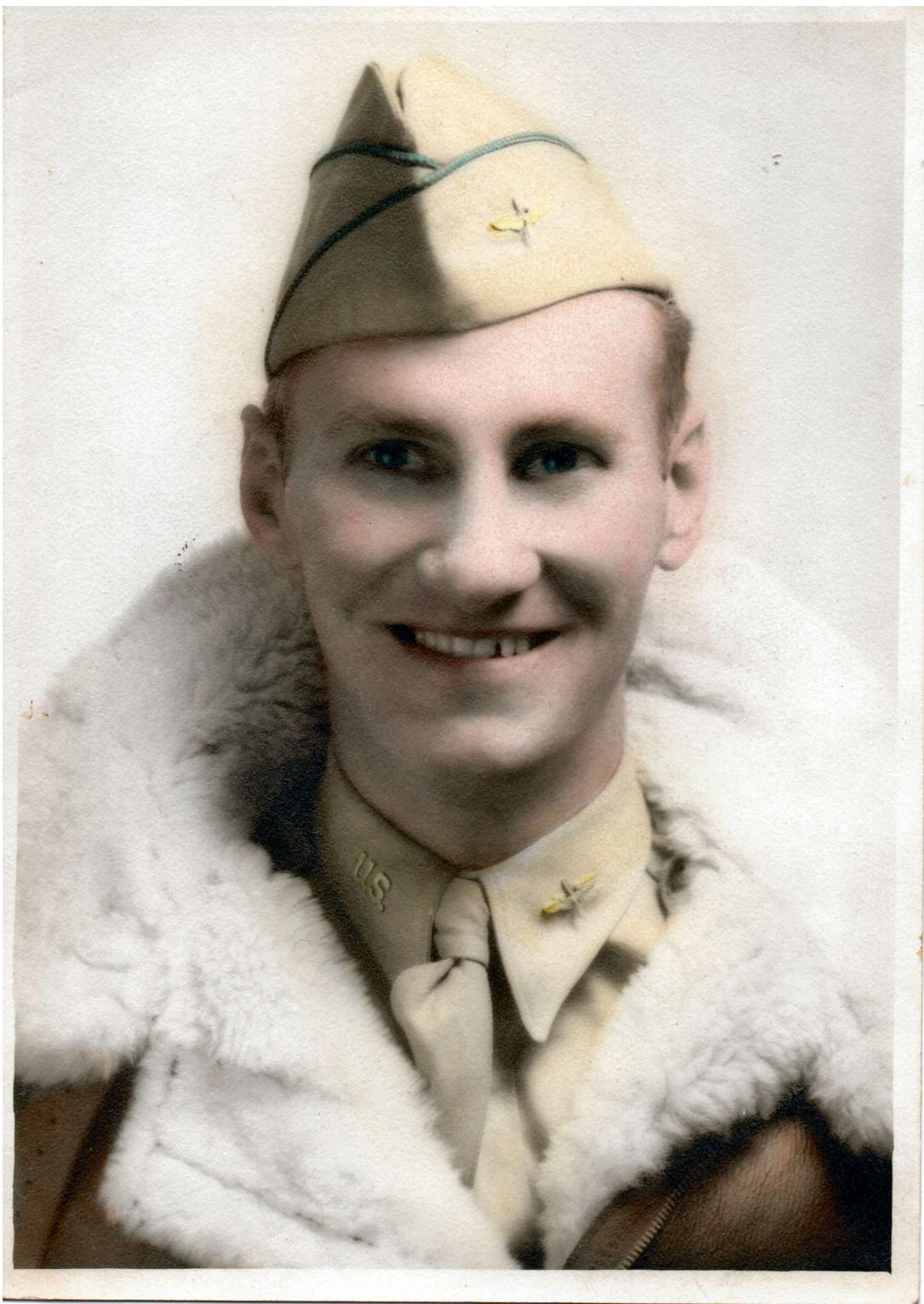
Johnnie - Kathy - Ginnie - Paul
6807
NEVER-E-FADE
© 1944

Not sure who "Ginnie" or "Paul" were or where this was taken but it was only a few weeks after Jack married Mary Jane in Trenton.

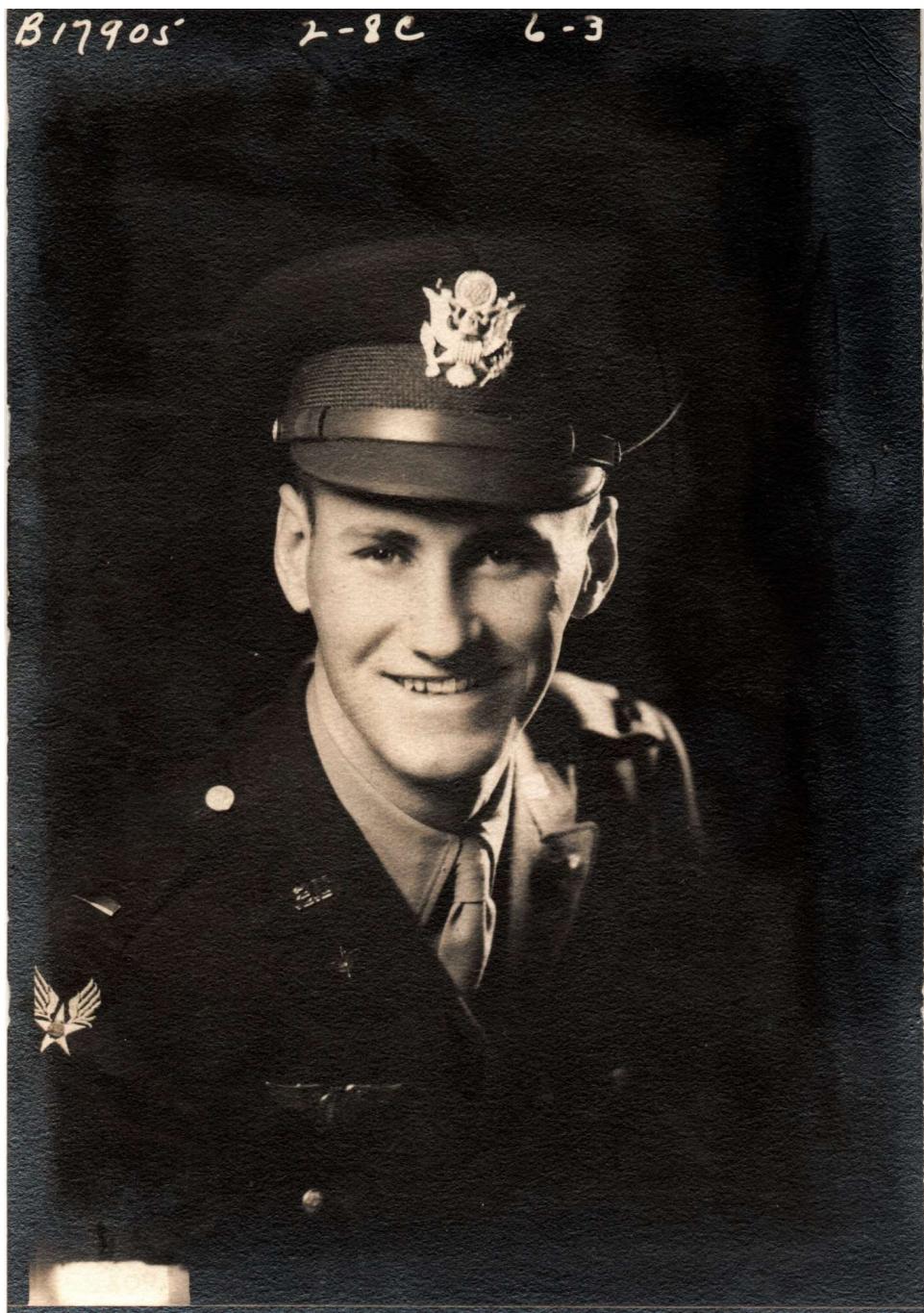
Margaret & Billy on Dayton Street



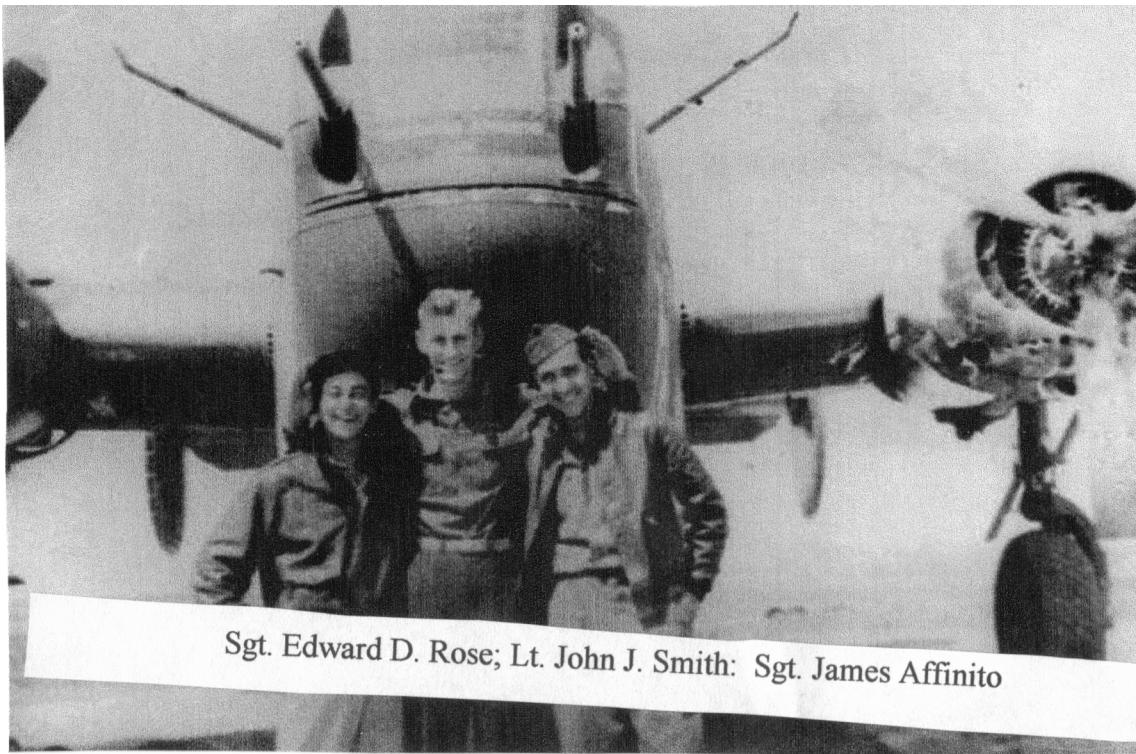
John J. Smith, 2nd Lieutenant,
US Army 15th Air Force, 461st Bomb Group, 764th Bomb Squadron



B17905' 2-8C L-3



He was the bombardier on the B-24 "Super Fortress" bomber *Sweet Pea* (#18).





Standing Left to Right: Jesse J. Luke, Jr.; Edgar M. Trenner; William Paradise, Alfred P. 'Chappy' Markavitch; John J. Smith

Kneeling Left to Right: Manuel 'Mannie' Weber; James Affinito; James J. Montalto; B. Busby; A. D. Sinclair



25 July 1944, Crash Crew



25 July 1944: Wreckage of Swee'Pea

Swee' Pea was heavily damaged during a mission on 25 July 1944 to Linz, Austria but managed to make it back to Toretto Airfield (Italy) and landed without flaps, using parachutes as brakes and both tires shot out.

It was two months after the crash that John married Mary Jane in Trenton.

More details and photographs of the wartime service of John and Billy are in my book:

“The First World War, The Sequel: Valentine William Smith, Private First Class, United States Army Signal Service Corps” (2012).

The book is available for free download at the following link:

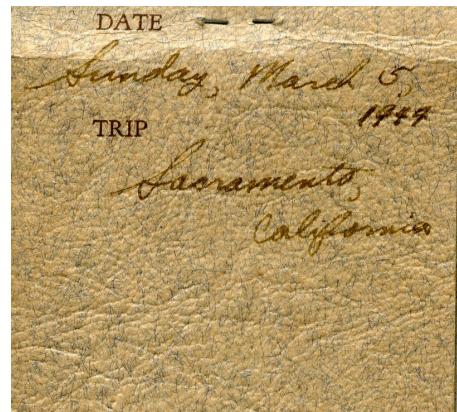
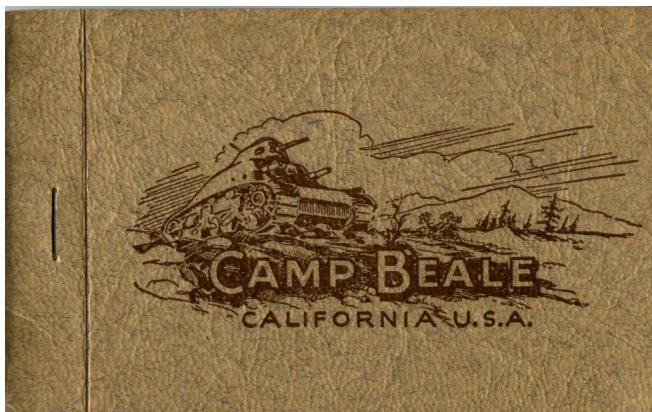
<https://archive.org/details/2010PrivateSmithAndWW2Public>

Valentine William Smith, PVC, US Army Signal Service





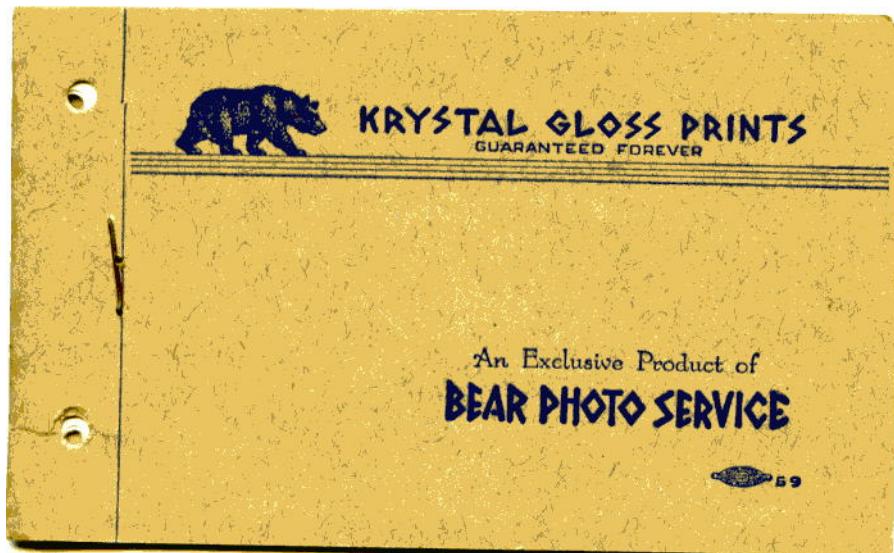
Camp Beale, Pittsburg near Sacramento, CA – March 1944

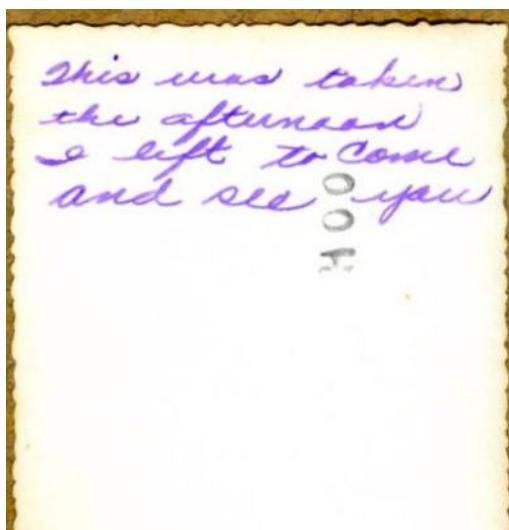


Dad with Hugh Clinton and “Clair and Olga” in front of the State Capitol



March 1944: "Guber" – the mystery woman of Camp Beale. This photo book was among my Dad's military collection.

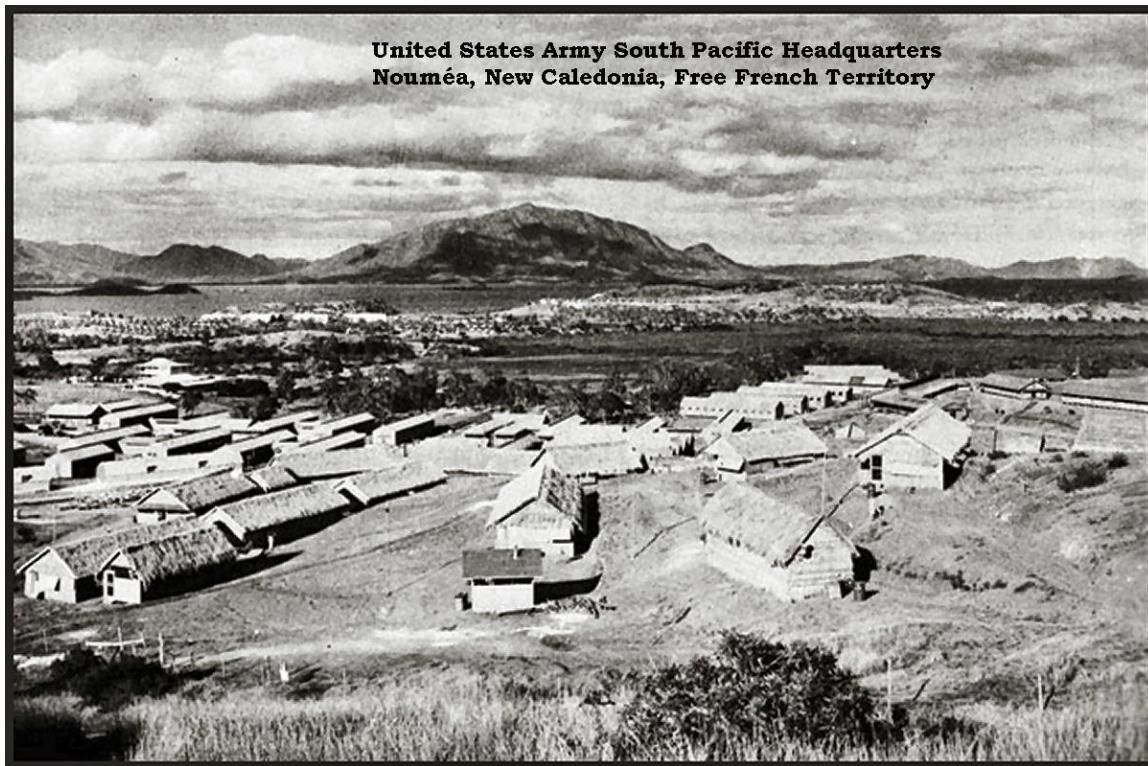






Back to business:

June 1944 – New Caledonia





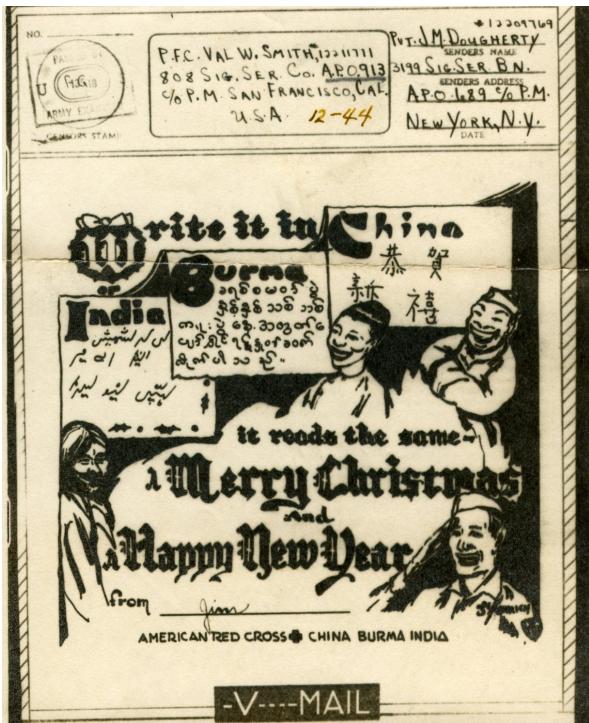
"Company A" on New Caledonia - circa June 1944

Then Fiji



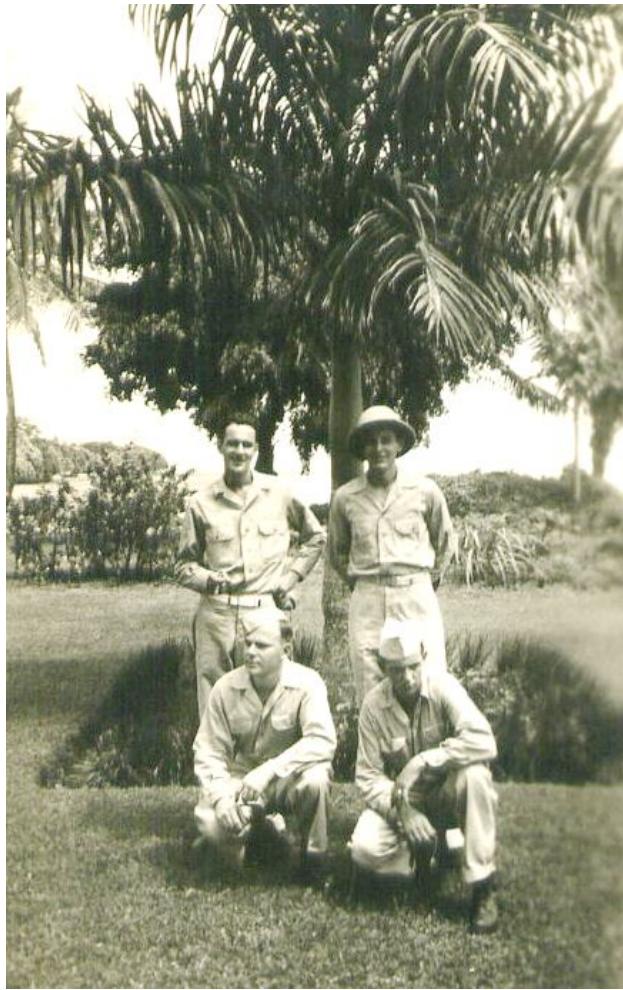
where Billy qualified for carbine



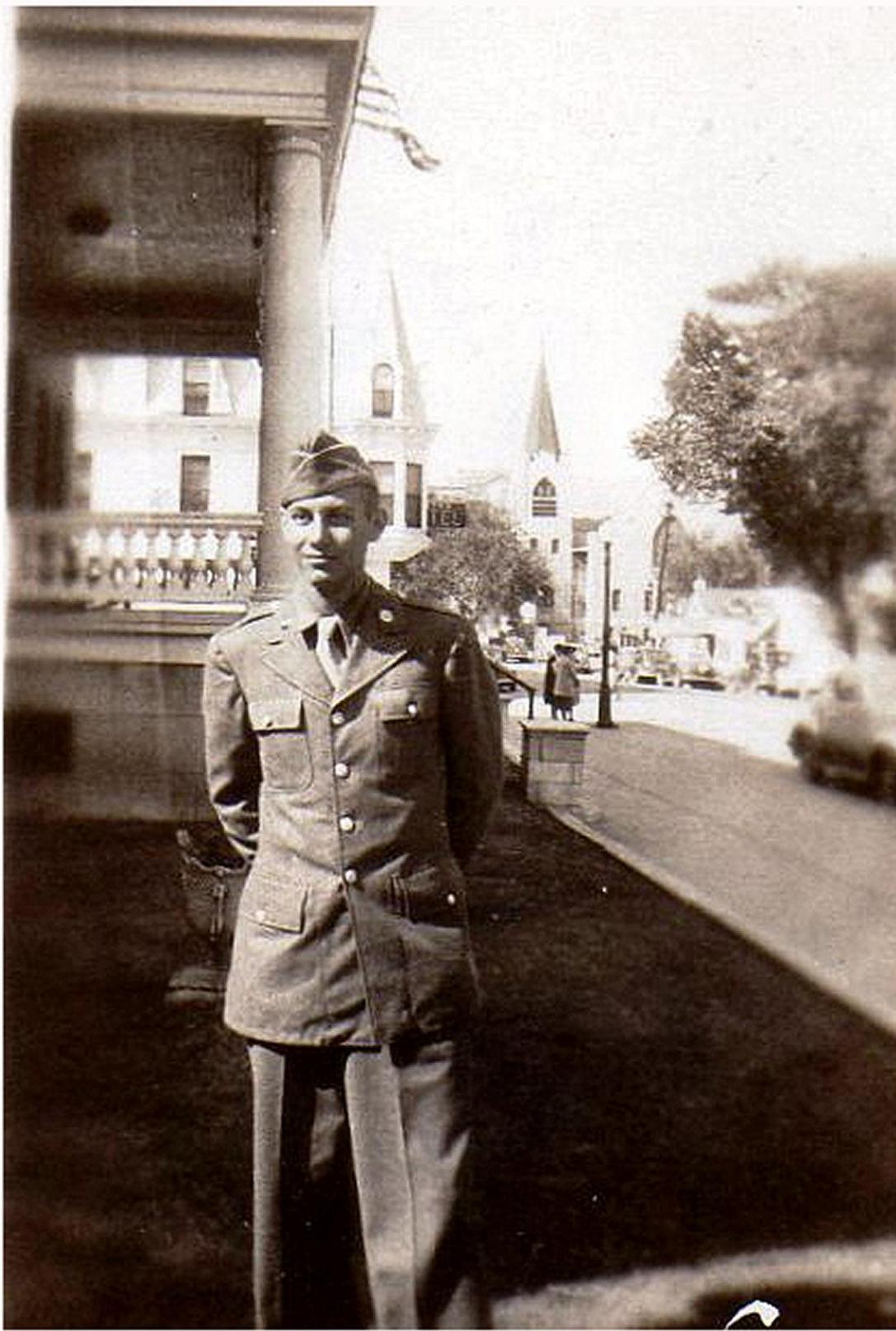


He spent the holidays on Fiji.

Billy (standing, right)



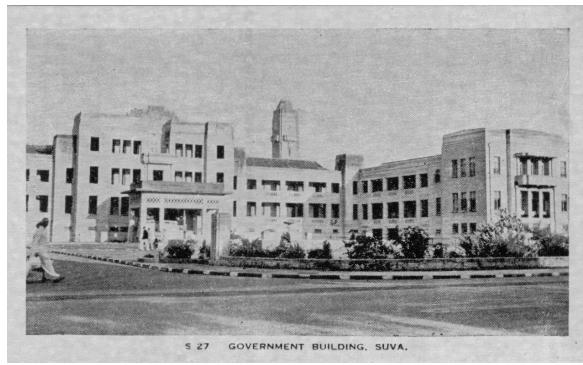
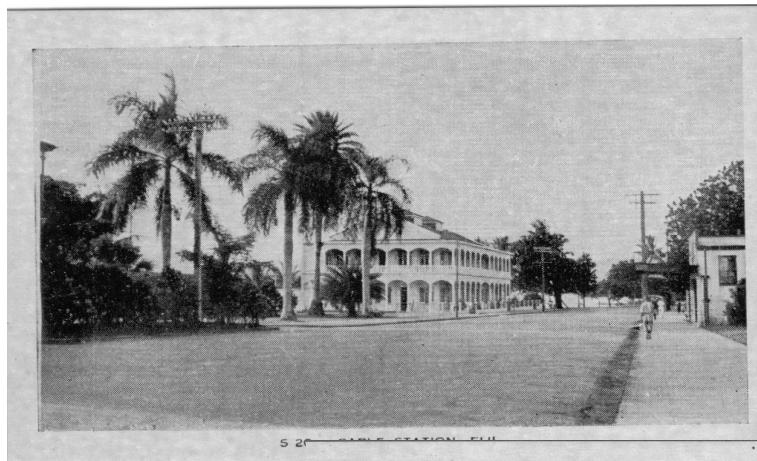
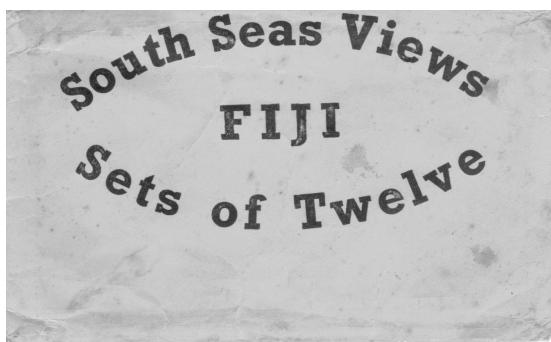
Private V.W. Smith, Technician, 4th Class, 3119th Signal Battalion
Suva, Fiji Islands, second half of 1944

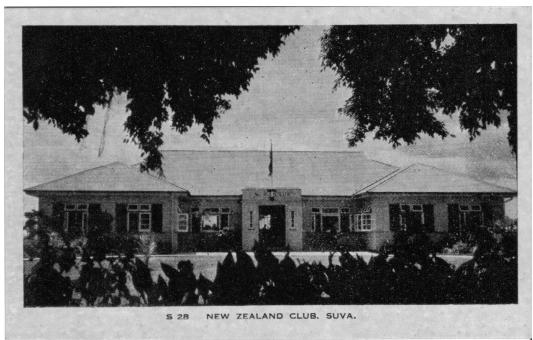
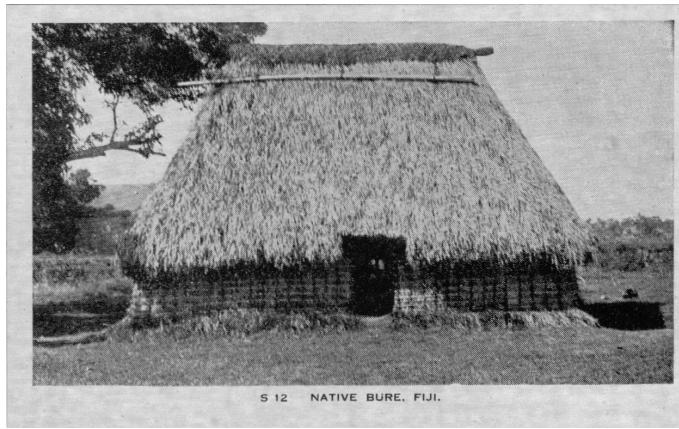
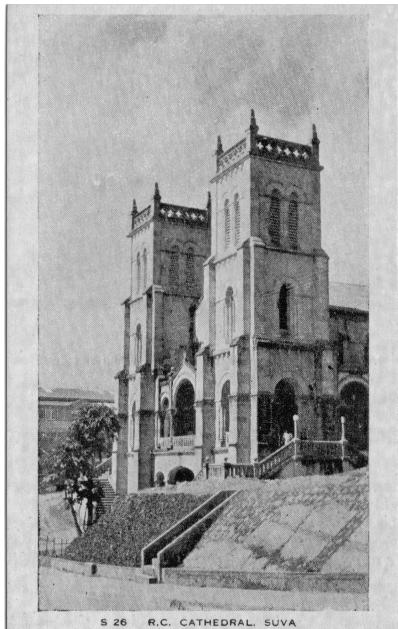
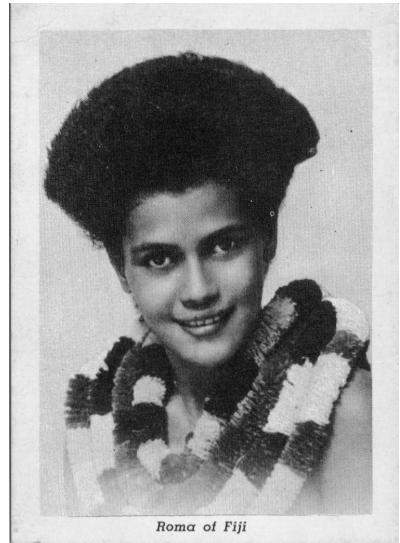
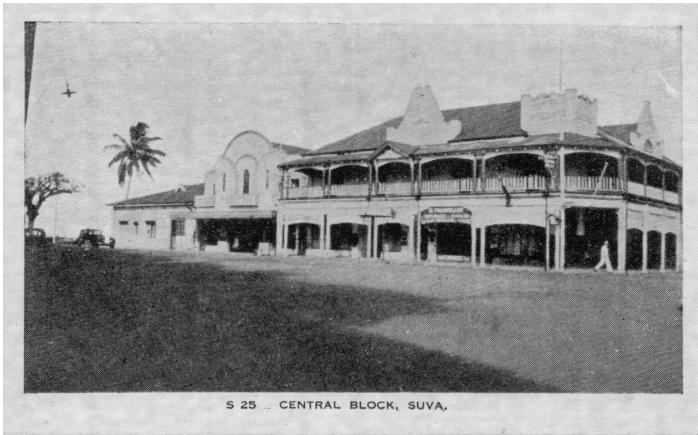


Pvt. V.W. Smith, Suva, Fiji Islands, 1944



Before leaving Fiji, he picked up a souvenir:





Tinian Island – this first group are photos Billy took or had taken



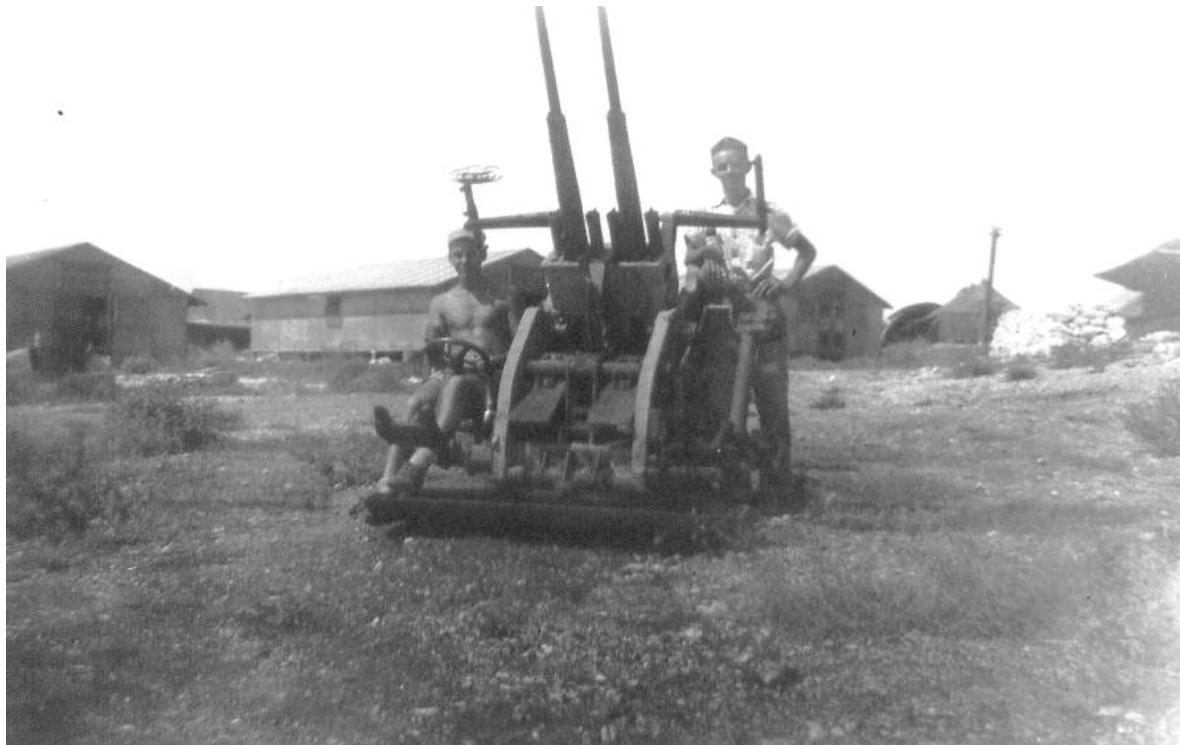
Dale Davis





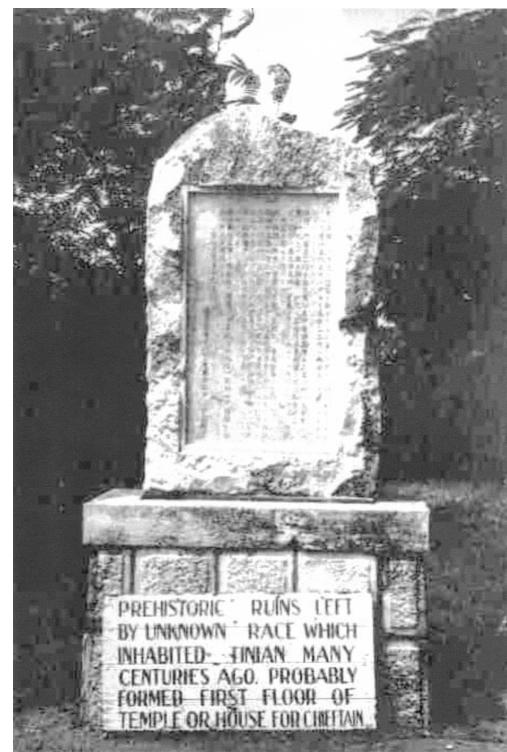


"B-29 off runway while taking off from West Field" September 1945





Visiting a “Prehistoric” ruin with “MacConnel”





Dale Davis



“McConnell”





Amongst Dad's things was a slide that was not in the usual cardboard frame. This is the best that could be developed from it which shows someone standing on the wing of a wreck.



Apparently, every soldier had the obligatory photo of Olivia DeHaviland!

Dad brought with him a “souvenir” set of 4 photos taken on Tinian – which did not include the *Enola Gay* or *Boxcar* the two that dropped the atomic bombs – an event that Dad always, and somewhat unconvincingly given all the hoopla that attended the take-off of these historic flights, maintained he knew nothing about.





The 3910th Signal Service Battalion was the only unit on Tinian Island of the 20 units named and the only Signal Service battalion to be awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation in General Order 133 dated 1 November 1945. The reasons for the award are not mentioned other than for unspecified *outstanding performance*; every other unit has a specific act on a specific date as the reason they received the Commendation.

Awarded on 20 January 1945, Fiji

